IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a client-server environment, to manage ~~the~~a configuration of resources on at least one client, the method on a client system comprising ~~the steps of~~:

 receiving a set of one or more configuration files ~~on a computer readable medium~~ from a server, over a previously configured network interface, the set of configuration files are identical to the set of configuration files received by other client systems attached to the server, and wherein the set configuration files containing one or more defined configuration settings, wherein the configuration files ~~was~~were previously built through use of a graphical interface, and without the need to create client specific text edit logon scripts~~, and wherein the configuration is customized based on logon authentication to at least one user on a client system~~; and

 in response to the user logging on and authenticated to the server, executing an application program that takes the set of one or more configuration files and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to the client system so as to automatically configure for ~~the~~a user on the client system, ~~at least~~zero or more configuration settings, wherein the application program ~~is loaded and~~excutes so as to validates at least one of the configuration settings in the configuration based on logon authentication and validates one or more of run-time environmental variables of the client system, the variables consisting of at least one of (i) an IP subnet address, (ii) a LAN group membership, and (iii) at least one registry entry, before applying ~~it~~the configurations settings to the client system, and wherein the application executes after the client system boots-up, loads an operating system and before an operating system shell is presented to the user.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~step of~~ receiving set of one or more configuration files includes receiving set of one or more configuration files containing one or more defined configurations from the group of configuration settings consisting of drive mappings, shell folders, printer deployment, proxy server access, application paths, service packs, anti-virus updates, policies and automatic mail profile creation

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a set of one or more configuration files includes receiving a set of one or more configuration files containing one or more defined configuration settings for the operating system running on the client system.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a set of one or more configuration files includes receiving a set of one or more configuration files containing one or more defined configuration settings for an application running on the client system.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a set of one or more configuration files includes receiving a set of one or more configuration filescontaining one or more defined configuration settings for redirecting a resource on the client to a resource on a network

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a set of one or more configuration files includes receiving a set of one or more configuration files from a server system.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
        executing a interpretative engine that interprets the application program as source programming language; and wherein the step of executing an application program includes executing an application program on the interpretative engine.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:
        receiving a custom application script on a computer readable medium, the custom application script in a source programming that is interpreted by the interpretative engine; and wherein the step executing an application program includes executing an application program along with the custom application script so as to automatically configure for at least one user, at least one configuration setting.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of executing an application program includes executing the custom application script prior to the execution of the application program so as to cause the application program to alter at least one configuration setting differently then if the application program was executed after the custom application script.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of executing an application program includes executing the custom application script after the execution of the application program so as to cause the application program to alter at least one configuration setting differently then if the application program was executed prior to the custom application script.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of executing an application program includes executing an application program that takes the set of one or more configuration files and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to the client system so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of executing an application program includes executing an application program that takes the set of one or more configuration files and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to anthe operating system running on the client system so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for a selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of executing an application program includes executing an application program that takes

the set of one or more configuration files and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to an application running on the client system so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for a selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of executing an application program includes executing an application program that takes the set of one or more configuration files and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to redirect a resource on the client to a resource on a network so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for a selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

15. (Currently Amended) A method in a client-server environment, to manage thea configuration of resources on at least one client, the method on a server system comprising the steps of:

presenting a graphical user interface to a user containing user selectable items representing one or more configuration settings for at least one user on at least one client system, wherein the settings is customized based on logon authentication to at least one user on the client system and wherein the settings are customized without the need to create client specific text edit logon scripts;

receiving one or more user selections on the graphical user interface;

storing the one or more user selections in a set of one or more configuration files template so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting, wherein the set of configuration files are identical to configuration files received by other client systems attached to a server; and

transferring the the set of one or more configuration files from the server over a previously configured network interface to theat least one client system so at to cause an application program to take the set of one or more configuration files and apply at

least one of the defined configuration settings to the client system so as to automatically configure for ~~at least one~~ the user on the client system, at least one configuration setting, wherein the application program is loaded and validates at least one of the configuration settings based on logon authentication <u>and validates one or more run-time environmental variables of the client system, the variables consisting of an IP subnet address, a LAN group membership, and a registry entry,</u> before applying ~~it~~<u>the</u> <u>configurations settings</u> to the client system, and wherein the application executes after the client system boots-up, loads an operating system and before an operating system shell is presented to the user.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~step of~~ receiving one or more selections includes receiving one or more configuration settings from the group of configuration settings consisting of drive mappings, shell folders, printer deployment, proxy server access, application paths, service packs, anti-virus updates, policies and automatic mail profile creation.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~step of~~ transferring a configuration ~~template~~ includes transferring a configuration ~~template~~ containing one or more defined configuration settings for ~~an~~the operating system running on the client system.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim15, wherein the ~~step of~~ transferring a configuration ~~template~~ includes transferring a configuration ~~template~~ containing one or more defined configuration settings for an application running on the client system.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~step of~~ transferring a configuration ~~template~~ includes transferring a configuration ~~template~~ containing one or more defined configuration settings for redirecting a resource on the client to a resource on a network.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~step of~~

transferring set of one or more configuration files the configuration template includes transferring the set of one or more configuration files configuration to at least one client system so as to cause an application program to take the set of one or more configuration files and apply at least one of the defined configuration settings to the client system so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for a selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the step of transferring the set of one or more configuration files includes transferring the set of one or more configuration files to at least one client system so at to cause an application program to take the set of one or more configuration files and apply at least one of the defined configuration settings to an operating system running on the client system so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the step of transferring the set of one or more configuration files includes transferring set of one or more configuration files to at least one client system so at to cause an application program to take the set of one or more configuration files and apply at least one of the defined configuration settings to an application running on the client system so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for a selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the step of transferring the set of one or more configuration files includes transferring the set of one or more configuration files to at least one client system so at to cause an application

program to take the <u>set of one or more</u> configuration <u>files</u> and apply at least one of the defined configuration settings to redirect a resource on the client to a resource on a network so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met..

24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions on a client system in a client-server environment, the programming instructions for managing ~~the~~<u>a</u> configuration of resources on at least one client, the computer readable medium comprising the instructions of:

receiving a <u>set of one or more</u> configuration <u>files</u> ~~on a computer readable medium~~ <u>from a server, over a previously configured network interface, the set of configuration files are identical to configuration files received by other client systems attached to the server, and wherein the set configuration files</u> containing one or more defined configuration settings, wherein the configuration <u>files</u> ~~was~~<u>were</u> previously built through use of a graphical interface, and without the need to <u>create client specific</u> text edit logon scripts~~, and wherein the configuration is customized based on logon authentication to at least one user on a client system~~; and

<u>in response to the user logging on and authenticated to the server,</u> executing an application program that takes the <u>set of one or more</u> configuration <u>files</u> and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to the client system so as to automatically configure for ~~the~~<u>a</u> user on the client system, ~~at least~~<u>zero or more</u> configuration setting<u>s</u>, wherein the application program ~~is loaded and~~<u>executes so as to</u> validates at least one of the configuration settings in the configuration based on logon authentication <u>and</u> <u>validates one or more of run-time environmental variables of the client system, the</u> <u>variables consisting of at least one of (i) an IP subnet address, (ii) a LAN group</u> <u>membership, and (iii) at least one registry entry,</u> before applying i<u>tthe configurations</u> <u>settings</u> to the client system, and wherein the application executes after the client system boots-up, loads an operating system and before an operating system shell is presented to the user.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 24, wherein the programming instruction of receiving a <u>set of one or more</u> configuration <u>files</u> includes receiving a <u>set of one or more</u> configuration <u>files</u> containing one or more defined configurations from the group of configuration settings consisting of drive mappings, shell folders, printer deployment, proxy server access, application paths, service packs, anti-virus updates, policies and automatic mail profile creation.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 24, wherein the programming instruction of executing an application program includes executing an application program that takes the <u>set of one or more</u> configuration <u>files</u> and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to the client system so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

27. (Currently Amended) A client system to manage the configuration of at resource in a client-server environment comprising:

means for receiving a <u>set of one or more</u> configuration <u>files</u> ~~on a computer readable medium~~ <u>from a server, over a previously configured network interface, the set of configuration files are identical to configuration files received by other client systems attached to the server, and wherein the set configuration files</u> containing one or more defined configuration settings, wherein the configuration <u>files</u> ~~was~~<u>were</u> previously built through use of a graphical interface, and without the need to <u>create client specific</u> text edit logon scripts~~, and wherein the configuration is customized based on logon authentication to at least one user on a client system~~; and

<u>in response to the user logging on and authenticated to the server,</u> means for executing an application program that takes the <u>set of one or more</u> configuration <u>files</u> and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to the client system so as to automatically configure for ~~the~~ <u>a</u> user on the client system, ~~at least~~<u>zero or more</u> configuration setting<u>s</u>, wherein the application program ~~is loaded and~~<u>executes so as to</u>

validates at least one of the configuration settings in the configuration based on logon authentication and validates one or more of run-time environmental variables of the client system, the variables consisting of at least one of (i) an IP subnet address, (ii) a LAN group membership, and (iii) at least one registry entry, before applying itthe configurations settings to the client system, and wherein the application executes after the client system boots-up, loads an operating system and before an operating system shell is presented to the user.

28. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 27, wherein the means for receiving a configuration includes receiving a set of one or more configuration files containing one or more defined configurations from the group of configuration settings consisting of drive mappings, shell folders, printer deployment, proxy server access, application paths, service packs, anti-virus updates, policies and automatic mail profile creation.

29. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 27, wherein the means for executing an application program includes executing an application program that takes the set of one or more configuration files and applies at least one of the defined configuration settings to the client system so as to automatically configure for at least one user on the client system, at least one configuration setting if the combination of one or more predefined conditions for selected group, MAC address, user name, workstation name, TCP/IP address, host address, site, domain, operating system and connection method are met.

FINAL OFFICE ACTION IS INAPPROPRIATE
IN VIEW OF NEWLY CITED ART

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated December 31, 2003. Applicants respectfully request entry of these remarks under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a) in that the remarks below place the application and claims in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested. Claims 1 - 29 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the Examiner made the Office Action final based on a new ground of rejection not stated in the earlier Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this decision. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-18, 20-22, and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bourke-Dunphy et al., (US 6,449,642), and rejected claims 5, 14, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourke-Dunphy et al., (US 6,449,642) in view of Parthasarathy et al (U.S. 6,347,398). The Applicants respectfully point out that both the Bourke-Dunphy reference and the Parthasarathy reference were not cited in any the previous Office Action. According to MPEP § 706.07(a): "Under present practice, second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection not necessitated by amendment of the application by applicant, whether or not the prior art is already of record." In the previous Office Action dated May 16, 2003, the Examiner Rejected claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 18, 20, 21-24, 26-27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by O'Neil et al (US 6,330,710); rejected claims 5, 9-10, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil et al (US 6,330,710) in view of Examiner's Official Notice; and rejected claims 2-3, 14, 16-17, 25, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil et al (US 6,330,710) in view of Paul et al. (US 6,466,972. In the previously-filed amendment, Applicants amended the independent claims 1, 15, 24 and 27 for clarity and to include an additional limitation of "wherein the configuration was previously built through use of a graphical interface, and without the need to text edit logon scripts, and wherein the configuration is customized based on logon authentication to at least one user on a client system." The Applicants did not switch from one subject matter to